CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

 A method of separating plasma membranes, comprising the steps of: isolating plasma membranes with a cationic colloidal silica plasma membrane isolation step;

washing the isolated plasma membranes with sodium carbonate to produce silica coated plasma membrane;

prior to any proteolytic digestion, solubilizing the silica coated plasma membrane in 2% SDS;

separating the plasma membrane proteins on an SDS PAGE gel.

- The method of claim 1, further comprising excising the proteins;
 subjecting the proteins to in gel trypsin digestion; and then
 analyzing the proteins with mass spectrometry and bioinformatics database
 searching.
 - 3. A method of separating plasma membranes, comprising the steps of: isolating plasma membranes;

washing the isolated plasma membranes;

solubilizing the silica coated plasma membrane;

separating the plasma membrane proteins.

- 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising excising the proteins; subjecting the proteins to in gel trypsin digestion; and then analyzing the proteins with mass spectrometry and bioinformatics database searching.
 - 5. The method of claim 3 wherein said washing of the isolated plasma membranes is conducted with sodium carbonate.
 - 6. The method of claim 3 wherein the solubilizing of the silica coated plasma membrane is conducted in 2% SDS.
 - 7. The method of claim 3 wherein the plasma membrane proteins are separated with a cationic colloidal silica plasma membrane.
 - 8. The method of claim 3 wherein the solubilizing of the silica coated plasma membrane is conducted prior to any proteolytic digestion.
 - 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising excising the proteins; subjecting the proteins to in gel trypsin digestion; and then analyzing the proteins with mass spectrometry.

- 10. The method of claim 8 wherein said washing of the isolated plasma membranes is conducted with sodium carbonate.
 - 11. The method of claim 8 wherein the solubilizing of the silica coated plasma membrane is conducted in 2% SDS.
- 12. The method of claim 3 wherein the solubilizing of the silica coated plasma membrane is conducted prior to any proteolytic digestion.
 - 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising excising the proteins; subjecting the proteins to in gel trypsin digestion; and then analyzing the proteins with mass spectrometry.
- 14. The method of claim 12 wherein said washing of the isolated plasma membranes is conducted with sodium carbonate.
- 15. The method of claim 12 wherein the solubilizing of the silica coated plasma membrane is conducted in 2% SDS.